

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 181

TUESDAY JUNE 29, 2004

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

INSIDE



LibFest Closes

The Liberation Carnival was shut down late Saturday night and has yet to reopen due to Typhoon Tingting.

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Saturn Sojourn

Two decades and \$3.3 billion in the making, an international exploration of Saturn begins this week when a spacecraft slips through a gap in the planet's shimmering rings and arcs into orbit.

Page 14



Ford Escape 2005

I drove it hard. It mattered not to me that the 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid is the world's first gas-electric sport-utility vehicle, designed to get better mileage with lower emissions than any comparable compact SUV.

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Typhoon wreaks havoc



JOHN RAVELO

The intensity of winds brought on by typhoon Tingting knocked down this huge tree across the DFS Galleria in the Garapan commercial district. No one was reported hurt in the incident.

Widespread flooding, power outages reported

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Tropical storm Tingting pounded Saipan yesterday with about 70mph winds and record-breaking rainfall that knocked down trees, flooded roads, caused power outages, and forced 197 people to temporarily take refuge in evacuation centers.

Tingting's eye went as close as 45 miles northeast of Saipan about 9am yesterday. As it moved northwest to Agrihan and Pagan in the Northern Islands,

Tingting's howling winds could still be felt on Saipan.

As of 1pm yesterday, the National Weather Service located Tingting about 100 miles north-northeast of Saipan, 110 miles north-northeast of Tinian and 175 miles north-northeast of Rota. The Emergency Management Office said Tingting, which had already intensified to typhoon at this time, was moving northwest at 9mph and was about 160 miles south of Agrihan and 120 miles south of Pagan.

With wind strength of 75mph gusting

up to 90mph, Tingting threatened a possible direct hit on Agrihan and Pagan, with weather forecasters predicting that the typhoon's movement would tilt north-northwesterly, the EMO said.

At 2:30pm, Gov. Juan N. Babauta upgraded his typhoon condition declaration for the CNMI's three major islands, Agrihan and Pagan to Condition I, which meant that typhoon conditions would be felt within the next 12 hours.

EMO deputy director Mark Pangelinan said the NWS has been getting data

See **TYPHOON** on Page 12

Cancelled flights strand 800-plus passengers

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

After the initial decision to proceed with scheduled departure and arrival flights yesterday, all signatory airlines backtracked and decided to cancel their remaining flights last night due to Typhoon Tingting.

All airlines serving the Northern Marianas had earlier notified the Commonwealth Ports Authority and passengers of plans to proceed with departure and

arrival flights to the Saipan International Airport to relieve airline firms from backlogs accumulated over the weekend.

At least 800 passengers were stranded on Saipan as a result of the cancelled flights. Some of those stranded included passengers from a flight that was diverted from Guam.

There was zero visibility as of Monday afternoon, with Tingting gaining strength after making landfall on

the Marianas archipelago Sunday night.



Salas

All stranded passengers bound for Tokyo, Guam, Honolulu, and other destinations were brought to several Saipan hotels where they will stay until flights are normalized.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Carlos H. Salas disclosed that the Saipan International Airport remained

See **CANCELLED** on Page 12

Babauta, officials do islandwide inspection

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Gov. Juan N. Babauta and some other government officials spent their day yesterday making rounds islandwide to assess the impact of Typhoon Tingting.

Babauta, who rode in the car driven by Public Works Secretary Juan Reyes, began the inspection in Lower Base and Garapan area.

"There's widespread flooding. That's because of the heavy rains brought by the typhoon. The drainage system is just inadequate. Well, any system could be inadequate in this situation," said Babauta.

He said fallen trees could be seen

See **BABAUTA** on Page 12

Island Snapshots



TRAFFIC HAZARD SHAN SEMAN
A tree breaks at a residence on San Jose due to the intense winds of Typhoon Tingting.



DRAIN DIGGERS SHAN SEMAN
Two individuals work relentlessly in addressing the flood problem faced at the Century Insurance building yesterday.

OBSTACLE
Tingting's strong winds uprooted this tree that blocked the pathway along Beach Road.
JOHN RAVELO



COMMAND POST JOHN RAVELO
Emergency responders monitor incidents related to the onslaught of storm Tingting at the conference room of the Emergency Management Office.



BREAKFAST AT SHELTER JOHN RAVELO
The old man and the boy take their breakfast at an evacuation shelter at the Garapan Elementary School.



HANDS-ON LIBERTY DONES
Gov. Juan N. Babauta, center, and Public Safety commissioner Edward Camacho, study Typhoon Tingting's direction through the National Weather Station Center's website at the Emergency Management Office' operations center on Capitol Hill.



BIRTHDAY BOY LIBERTY DONES
EMO acting director Mark Pangelinan, second left, had not thought that he would celebrate his birthday this year at the height of a typhoon. At EMO operations center Monday afternoon, he is greeted by Gov. Juan N. Babauta, second right, DPS commissioner Ed Camacho, left, and staff Dino Palacios, right.



TEMPORARY HOME JOHN RAVELO
Evacuees sleep and relax in the classroom.



CHILDREN IN THE DARK JOHN RAVELO
The children spend time in the darkness at a Garapan Elementary School classroom, where they evacuated for safety. The school experienced a power outage.

Tingting shuts down Liberation Festival

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

The Liberation Fest was shut down late Saturday night, and has yet to reopen due to effects of Typhoon Tingting.

According to Liberation executive committee chair Victorino Cepeda, the carnival grounds will remain off limits to the public until the weather clears up.

He said activities would resume, possibly today, depending on the weather conditions.

Cepeda disclosed that as of noon yesterday, only one unit containing four booths was reported damaged due to the strong winds. He said repair of the booths is the responsibility of the owners.

“The roof of those booths were torn away by the winds,” he said. Aside from that, there are no other reported damage.”

Cepeda and his crew were at the site inspecting all the rides and booths. He said another inspection must be done prior to reopening the carnival grounds.

In related news, a total of 30 marchers-floats have confirmed participation in this year’s Liberation Day parade set for July 4.

Cepeda said the matter on floats and marchers was to be discussed last night in a meeting; however, it was postponed and moved to this evening at 6pm at the Office of the Saipan Mayor.

According to Cepeda, the parade will begin at 9am from the National Office Supply to the



Hollow blocks are used to keep the roofs of Liberation Day stalls from being blown away.

LIBERTY DONES

carnival grounds across Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

The Liberation Fest kicked off on June 4 with a formal introduction of the eight candidates in the Royal Court.

Representing the Refaluwasch Foundation and community is Lady Leiana K. Ogumoro; representing Rota and the Rota High School JROTC is Lady Nadia B. Manglona; representing the Filipino community is Lady Myla Capilitan; representing the Chuukese community is Lady Sarah T. Igisaiar; representing the Indian community is Lady Sweeda N. Glad; representing the Palauan community is Lady Heather O. Woodruff; representing Kagman High School JROTC is Lady Monarie R. Cabrera; and representing the Chamorro community is Lady Sheyvonne Aldan.

The final ranking of candidates is based on the amount of tickets sold. The final counting of tickets sold took place last Saturday evening at the Office of the Saipan Mayor. Results will not be released until coronation night this Wednesday, July 2.

Cepeda said 10 percent of the money will remain with the candidate and her parents, another 10 percent will be used to pay for expenses for an upcoming trip to Nagoya, Japan, while the rest will remain with the Liberation Fest committee for other expenses.

Whoever is crowned queen will also receive \$1,000 in scholarship, while the first and second runners-up receive \$700 and \$500 in scholarships.

Each candidate will also receive a crown, a scepter, a royal robe, and a necklace or bracelet, and two gowns.

The group has been invited by the mayor of Nagoya to take part in a festival sometime in August. The candidates will be hosted by Japanese families for two days, and will also perform several dance numbers.

Tuna gets new protection in Pacific

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—A new tuna conservation convention has come into force in the Pacific.

The convention establishes a new regional fisheries management organization—the West-

ern and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

The Forum Fisheries Agency says the agreement is the result of a long and arduous process of negotiations in the region.

It says the new commis-

sion will introduce new standards of responsible fishing of shared tuna stocks ending unregulated fishing on the high seas.

Fourteen countries have so far ratified the convention.

cars unlimited

COMMUNITY Briefs

Calling all bartenders, waitstaff

The Northern Marianas Bartender Association, in cooperation with Chivas Regal Whisky, will be hosting a seminar at Aqua Resort Club on June 29, 2004 from 10am up to 1:30pm. We are inviting all bartenders and waitstaff to come and join us with the Brand Ambassador of Chivas Regal, Robin Johnston as a guest speaker. This seminar is free of charge and a complimentary lunch buffet will be served.

SNISWCD meeting set

The Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of their meeting on July 7, 2004 at 1:30pm at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Office. For more information, contact 234-6170.

Broadcast schedule for Into The Woods

The radio broadcast of Into The Woods Jr. by students under the direction of Friends of the Arts will be on KRNH 88.1 and 89.1 FM. It will air on the Novel Hour, Tuesday, June 29, and Saturday, July 3 on the following times: Tuesday 8pm, Saturday 11am.

Attention to parents of GES 6th Grade graduates

On June 28, 2004 all 6th grade cumulative records will be sent to Hopwood Junior High School to prepare for the new school year. If your child will not be attending Hopwood, please come to the main office at GES to fill out a transfer-out form. This includes the parents of children who will be attending ChaCha Junior High School, private schools on Saipan, and/or any off-island school.

DEQ sets deadline for water report

The Division of Environmental Quality would like to announce to the owners and/or operators of all community public water systems that the due date for the annual Consumer Confidence Report for 2003 is on or before July 1, 2004.

All Community Public Water Systems are required to gather all 2003 analytical results and violations, if any, and produce a consumer confidence report, which will be disseminated to all consumers as well as provide a copy to DEQ.

DEQ also looks forward to reviewing and hopes to find all CCR's in exceptional order.

For additional information on the 2003 CCR, contact Tripler Dela Cruz of the DEQ Safe Drinking Water Branch at 664-8500/01.

NMC English placement tests

Following is the schedule of our upcoming English Placement Tests:

Thursday	July 29	Room D-1	1pm-4pm
Friday	July 30	Room D-1	5:30pm-8:30pm
Thursday	November 4	Room D-1	1pm-4pm
Friday	November 5	Room D-1	5:30pm-8:30pm

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9am-4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment-a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee.

All students seeking a degree and/or certificate are required to take the English placement test.

Residential, biz inspections in Kagman II village

The Division of Environmental Quality and the Bureau of Environmental Health would like to inform the residents of Kagman II village that On-site Disposal System and premise compliance inspections would be conducted on residential and business facilities. The inspections has been ongoing since April 21, 2004 and will continue to be conducted every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Kagman II residents are requested to cooperate with inspectors in keeping their dog(s) on a leash, for the safety of the inspectors. Both BEH and DEQ inspectors are required to wear their respective uniforms and photo identification during all inspections.

For additional information on the OSDS inspections, contact the BEH office at 664-4870/2 or the DEQ office at 664-8500/1.

Pag-IBIG refunds available

Pag-IBIG overseas program members from 1996-to January 1998 can now apply for a refund of their total contributions plus the 3-percent dollar interest tax-free.

"Just fill out a refund application form and you will receive your refund in U.S. dollars. After getting your refund, you can be a member again by submitting a new pop membership form and contribute a minimum of \$5.00 per month," according to a Pag-IBIG statement.

For a minimum contribution of \$5 a month, former members can also activate their Pag-IBIG membership also in the Philippines using the same Pag-IBIG ID number.

"Your contribution will be converted into Philippine pesos using the current conversion rate and it will earn a 7.5-percent peso interest. After 25 to 30 years from your initial contribution, you are entitled to a refund in Philippine peso of all your contribution including interest tax-free," the agency said.

For more information, call the Pop Saipan Office at 235-4749 or visit the Pop Office at the ground floor of the Nauru Building in Susupe and look for information officer Lynell F. Fulgencio.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE JAN OF MAY '04, 2004									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
Saipan-Milan					Milan-Saipan				
66001	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	66001	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
66002	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	66002	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
66003	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	66003	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
66004	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	66004	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
66005	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	66005	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
66006	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	66006	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
66007	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	66007	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
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66008	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	66008	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
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66011	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	66011	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
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66012	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	66012	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
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Tingting snarls traffic across island

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

Devastating winds of 90mph and the heavy rain brought by Typhoon Tingting stranded several motorists yesterday, with several vehicles forced to seek help from the Department of Public Safety after their cars got stuck due to the heavy floods.

Although unable to provide a specific number, DPS public information officer Rose Ada-Hocog said quite a few vehicles requested assistance.

“People are still traveling and still crossing streets where fallen lines are obviously visible. There is major flooding in all areas, and officers had to be dispatched to areas where people were left stranded.”

Electrical lines were lying on the streets, trees were up-

rooted, and traffic lights were malfunctioning. One particular traffic light located between the Duty Free Shoppers Galleria and the Joeten Shopping Center in Garapan had both red and green lights on at the same time, bringing confusion to several motorists crossing the area.

DPS commissioner Edward Camacho issued a public advisory at about 2:46pm, urging motorists to stay off the roads until weather conditions improved.

“Many streets are flooded, visibility at times is near zero, power to most streetlights is out, and debris that can damage vehicles is hidden by standing water,” he said. “Only essential and emergency trips should be taken.”

Camacho urged that all vehicles travel with headlights on. “Conditions are expected to

remain severe at least for the next 12 hours,” he said.

Hocog said that aside from monitoring traffic for safety, DPS officers have also been assisting other departments and emergency crews.

“We have officers who help out and do what they can. They are also assisting with the cutting of trees and branches that fell, among others,” she said.

Hocog also disclosed that people have been dialing 911 for cases that were not even close to being considered emergencies.

“Some people are calling 911 and are asking when the power will be turned on,” she said. “This is an emergency line only, and hence, emergency.”

Tropical storm Tingting was elevated to Typhoon Tingting Condition I at about 2:30pm yesterday.



JOHN RAVELO

A child shares a laugh with his grandfather at the Garapan Elementary School, where they sought shelter from the typhoon.

Over 200 evacuate to shelters

With weather conditions from Typhoon Tingting worsening yesterday, over 200 people began to seek safety in several schools designated as shelters.

As of 3pm yesterday, seven shelters were occupied by 201 people. Housing the most people was Garapan Elementary School with 86, 30 of which were children; Koblerville Elementary School with 57;

Dandan Elementary School with 17; Oleai Elementary School with 16, Kagman High School housed 13, San Vicente Elementary School had nine, while Tanapag Elementary School had three.

According to GES shelter manager William T. Lieto, service to the shelter was also provided by the Public School System via school buses.

He said as much as four families shared rooms due to limited availability and number of families that might rush to the shelter at a later hour.

“A lot of the families request to have a room of their own, but we just can’t do that,” he said. “We don’t have that much rooms and other families might come. They have to share.” *(Shan Seman)*

Cooks Democrats oust MP George

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The president of the Cook Islands Democratic Party says Member of Parliament Norman George has been sacked from the party this morning.

But George says he can’t be sacked, as he was not a fully-paid member of the party.

Party leader Makiuti Tongia said the decision was made by the party’s executive and a letter will be sent to George this week.

“We wanted to show that the party is united; that no attempt by MPs who want to run their own agendas would weaken the resolve of the executive and of

the party,” Tongia said.

Meanwhile, George says he will announce details of the new party he plans to form later this week.

He says the party will field seven candidates and his aim is for it to hold the balance of power in government after the elections.

House gets DPS papers, awaits other agencies

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Rep. Clyde Norita disclosed yesterday that his committee has received several sets of documents from the Department of Public Safety but additional information is still being requested from related agencies to assist the House of Representatives in its ongoing investigation on the looming crisis at the police force.

In an interview, Norita said the House Committee on Judicial and Government Operations received most of its requested materials from the DPS but it is still waiting for the monthly report of each division for the past year.

"We need to identify other information that could help us look further on what's going on and what we can do about it," said the lawmaker.

He added that this is particularly true now that a petition signed by an overwhelming number of police and fire officers surfaced last week.

According to Norita, the JGO received from the DPS the listing of all vehicles, the cellular phones and its billings, personnel action of promotion and reallocation of police and fire officers, and lists of amounts owed to auto shops and vendors, among others.

Also, the House is waiting for the Procurement and Supply

Office to furnish it a complete list of DPS vehicles, while the Office of Personnel Management has yet to submit the copy of all DPS personnel action for two years. The OPM documents would include promotion and corresponding salary increases.

"We are expecting to get all these documents next week, including the master list for all other agencies, not only for the police department," he said.

If all documents are provided and the House is satisfied with the reports submitted, Norita said an oversight hearing might not proceed as planned.

"As long as the DPS allows the committee to get all the necessary documents, we would be able to move on in resolving these matters," said Norita.

On Friday, Norita revealed that majority of personnel and officers at the DPS and fire division have expressed dissatisfaction with the management of Commissioner Edward Camacho and have asked the help of the Legislature and other elected officials to straighten things out at the department.

In papers filed last week at the House, at least 160 officers signed

a petition circulated within the department and its divisions for a month asking the Legislature to look into what they described as "personal feuds, vindictive condition, and disagreements occurring between the members of the DPS upper management."

The police and fire officers said the morale of frontline officers is already at rock bottom because of these.

More than 80 percent of the entire DPS populace signed the petition.

Officers from the DPS Criminal Investigation Division, Special Operations, Bike Patrol, Traffic Division, Boating Safety Section, COPPS, and fire division are asking the lawmakers

to evaluate the DPS' current working conditions and the crisis at the department.

Of the problems facing the department, the petitioners said the personnel shortage, vehicle shortage, lack of police and fire uniforms, lack of training logistic, and lack of gears and equipment are but a few of the problems affecting the police force's ability to perform at the required standards.

The group stressed that the DPS is critically in need of equipment to perform daily missions and responsibilities.

According to the petition, the officers are lacking in support not only professionally but also emotionally, affecting their ability to perform better.



Norita

Report: Luen Thai to sell company shares in IPO

Luen Thai, the parent company of Saipan's Tan Holdings Corp., hopes to raise \$100 million to expand its China operations, the U.K.-based Financial Times reported yesterday.

According to the report published in the Financial Times website, Luen Thai plans to sell 25 percent of the company in an initial public offering in Hong Kong, valuing the entire company at about \$400 million.

Proceeds of the July listing will be used for building factories in China and buying machinery and equipment.

This move, says the report, comes in an effort by Luen Thai to prepare for next year's elimination of the 30-year-old international quota system, under which the U.S. and Europe limited the amount of clothing that could be imported from any one country.

"The removal of the textile quota system is widely expected to lead to a substantial increase in U.S. and European imports from cheaper Asian countries, especially China. It would also benefit larger manufacturers such as Luen Thai as the fragmented industry is likely

to consolidate after the end of the quota regime," the Financial Times noted.

Luen Thai's clients include Polo Ralph Lauren and Liz Claiborne.

However, the proposed listing, being arranged by BNP Paribas Peregrine, will have to brave the current poor sentiment towards IPOs in the territory, the news outlet said.

Investors, according to Financial Times, have become more selective in regard to new listings recently after some offerings failed to take off.

The news report cited China Shipping Container Lines and Ping An Insurance as two of the companies whose shares declined or staged a muted debut this month.

Founded on Saipan 20 years ago, Luen Thai produced more than 50 million garments last year with annual sales of about \$540 million, the Financial Times said.

The company also expanded into supply chain management in recent years to provide logistic service for its customers.

The company and BNP Paribas Peregrine declined to comment.

Pacific leaders gather at Mozambique summit

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Pacific island heads of state have arrived in Maputo, Mozambique, to present regional concerns at a summit of the 77-nation African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP).

Priority issues for the Pacific Group have included the negotiation of proposals on fisheries, tourism, services, investment and trade facilitation.

These issues were discussed at the recent Pacific ACP Trade Ministers Meeting held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in April.

Discussions are also expected to center on the nominee for the position of Secretary-General of the ACP Secretariat currently held by Jean-Robert Goulongana.

The replacement for the current Secretary-General is due this time to the Pacific.

Fiji's Foreign Minister Kalipate Tavola, who attended the Joint Ministerial Meeting, will represent Fiji at this early meeting where he will meet with the ministers of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Western Samoa.

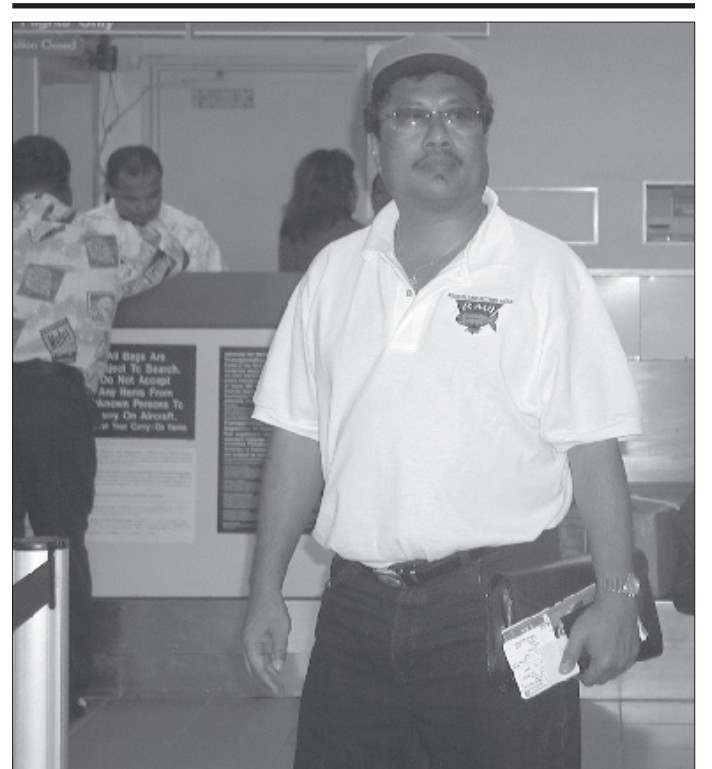
The Prime Ministers of Western Samoa and Papua New Guinea have also arrived at Maputo together with Prime Minister, Laisenia Qarase who is the current President of the ACP Group.



LOCAL BEAUTIES

Liberation Royal Court candidates Lady Sweeda Glad, left, and lady Myla Capilitan smile for the camera at the Chamolinian Village last Friday.

CASSIE DLG. FEJERAN



REMENGESAU LEAVES SAIPAN

JOHN RAVELO

Palau President Tommy Remengesau braves the threat of tropical storm Tingting Sunday checking in at an airline's counter at the Saipan International Airport, amid the cancellation of some international flights. Remengesau said he wanted to get back to Palau before the storm approaches close to Saipan.

Asia-Pacific air travel rebounds after last year's SARS outbreak

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The number of passengers traveling on major airlines in the Asia-Pacific region more than doubled in May compared to the same month last year—a sign that the industry has rebounded from the SARS crisis, an aviation association said Sunday.

The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines said preliminary figures showed 10.16 million passengers flew on its 17 members' planes during May, filling up 74 percent of available seats.

The figure was more than double the 4.26 million passengers in May 2003, when health fears linked to severe acute respiratory syndrome hurt demand for air travel.

Airlines were hit hard when the World Health Organization advised people to stay away from the mostly Asian areas affected by the SARS outbreak. Thousands of flights were cut and the industry lost hundreds

of millions of dollars with empty jets idle on the tarmac.

But the effect of SARS is now "well behind us," Richard Stirland, director general of the Kuala Lumpur-based airline association, said in a statement. "The recovery continues to be sustained and indeed augmented as we get further into the calendar year."

The trade association represents Air New Zealand, All Nippon Airways, Asiana Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways, China Airlines, Dragonair, EVA Air, Garuda Indonesia, Japan Airlines, Korean Air, Malaysia Airlines, Philippine Airlines, Qantas Airways, Royal Brunei Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways International and Vietnam Airlines.

SARS infected more than 8,000 people worldwide early last year and killed 774, the vast majority of them in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Pacific

Family escapes pirates off Port Moresby

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier, June 24)—Pirates attacked an expatriate man and his children outside the Port Moresby main wharf on Tuesday afternoon.

The family escaped the pirates by opening the throttle and reaching the safety of the Royal Papua Yacht Club's marina.

Port Moresby police said they had not yet heard about the banana boat attack.

The man, who is a member of the Royal Papua Yacht Club, was traveling with his children in their banana boat near the main wharf on Tues-

day afternoon when they were approached by another banana boat, painted black.

Yacht club general manager David Wilkinson said yesterday the man tried to avoid the pursuing boat but it kept following them.

Wilkinson said the criminals then threw an unidentified smoking object towards them but it bounced off the family's boat.

He said one of the criminals then brought out what was believed to be a single-barrel shotgun and fired one shot at the man and his sons.

The family sped off in their

boat to the club marina and the pirates fled, Wilkinson said.

"No one was physically hurt, however, it does highlight the increasing security problems we are all facing, not just on land, but now on the open water," he said.

Wilkinson said they also received unconfirmed reports the same people held up the Liquor Barn store last week at Ela Beach and also attempted to steal one of the boat tenders from a vessel in the harbor on Tuesday night.

Wilkinson said they also believe the criminals may have been involved in other robberies

yesterday, using the boat.

"I can assure you we are implementing additional security measures to ensure our marina is safe," he said.

National Capital District/Central provincial police commander Tony Wagambie said yesterday they had not received any reports on the incident but would investigate.

Two other attempted boat robberies have been reported last week around the nation's capital.

One robbery was near the Tahira boat center and the other at Manubada Island off Koki.

Tonga aircraft lease questioned

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—The legality of the 2002 lease agreement signed by the former Chief Executive of Royal Tongan Airlines, Logan Appu, with the Royal Brunei Airlines was questioned by 'Akilisi Pohiva in the Tongan Parliament last week.

The RTA Wet Lease issue was raised because of an increase in the allocation in the Minister of Finance's 2004-05 vote to pay government guaranteed loans.

When the Minister of Finance, Hon. Siosua 'Utoikamanu told the House that there was an increase of \$3.5 million (US\$1.5 million) in an allocation to repay government guaranteed loans in the coming financial year People Representatives then asked for more details on loans that are guaranteed by government.

In pursuing his query on the legality of the RTA Wet Lease Agreement with Royal Brunei, 'Akilisi said that the lease agreement was illegal, because it pre-empted the approval by the Privy Council on November 26 to guarantee a loan by RTA from the Tonga Telecommunications Corporation to pay for the leasing of the aircraft.

Hon. Siosua 'Utoikamanu told the House that government guarantee for RTA was in 2000 with a \$1 million (US\$500,000) loan from the Bank of Tonga to build a hangar at the airport. He said that the loan was later increased to \$2.7 million (US\$1.7 million), then it dropped to \$2 million (US\$1 million).

With regards to the guaranteed loan for the Wet Lease of the 757 Boeing aircraft from the Royal Air Brunei, he said that the guarantee was terminated when the Wet Lease was cancelled in June and was converted to a Dry Lease.

On the question on who will repay the RTA loan from TCC of about \$1.6 to \$2 million (US\$500,000—\$1 million) the minister said government would either repay the total amount at once or would make an arrangement with TCC for installment repayments.



WHALE RESEARCH

A humpback whale jumps out of the waters off Hawaii in this photo, date unknown. Federal researchers will head out into the North Pacific this weekend on a five-month long mission to learn more about humpback whales, acrobatic crowd-pleasers up to 50 feet long whose eerie, plaintive songs have been recorded for CDs. The 224-foot government research ship, the McArthur Two, will travel from Seattle north along the Canadian and Alaska coasts and then east to Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula—the whales' summer feeding grounds.

New Nauru govt to tap Aussie expertise

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Nauru's new government says it will continue to work closely with Australia in preparing its next budget.

The financially troubled Pacific island nation has a US\$165 million debt which it is trying to refinance and public servants have regularly gone without pay for long periods.

The new Minister Of Foreign Affairs And Justice, David Adeang, says the new government will honor the previous government's commitment to work closely with officials from Australia.

Mr. Adeang, who is a mem-

ber of the administration that came to power in a surprise vote of no-confidence earlier this week, says some progress is already being made.

"We've managed to have parliament pass the appropriation bill, or the money bill for the current financial year," he said. "Key officials from Australia, such as in the areas of finance and justice, can assist us with getting the most critical issues addressed, so that we can, with the assistance of the Australian treasury officials, prepare a budget that best addresses our circumstances," he said.

The new Nauru government

also says it has no plans to close the Australian-run asylum seeker camp on the island.

The outgoing president, Rene Harris, has said members of the new administration are against the camp's presence, and has warned Nauru will "grind to a halt" if they close it.

But Mr. Adeang says with public servants going without pay for weeks at a time, the camp is an important source of steady jobs.

"The detention centers as you call them are not really an issue at this time," Mr. Adeang said. "We do not expect any major changes with the status quo."

Vanuatu party raising funds for July polls

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Port Villa Presse)—It has been reported that the Vanuaaku Party (VP) is seeking to raise an amount of Vt 20 million (US\$6 million) to cover the July 6 snap election costs.

A letter was circulated around a number of business houses in Port Vila, seeking donations to cover the cost being incurred by the VP faction under Interim Prime Minister Edward Natapei.

The letter circulated contains

details on how unconditional payments might be made to VP to assist it be successful in the forthcoming elections.

Sources within the VP said that since 1980, the party normally only raises between Vt 3 to 4 million to cover an election, and seeking the huge amount of Vt 20 million for July will otherwise be difficult.

"The only large amount ever raised for previous general elections, was Vt 23 million in 1993," stated VP sources.

They said the VP only asks for money without strings attached and cannot give or accept promises.

However, the Vanuatu court was supposed to give judgment over the appeal case concerning the Lingarak executive put forward by Donald Kalpokas's faction, when The Independent went to print this morning.

Last week, Justice Treston said that the claimants (D. Kalpokas, Molisa, etc...) did not have an arguable case.



Scottish judge appointed Tonga's chief justice

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—The Privy Council of Tonga has appointed Justice Robin M. Webster, currently a part-time Employment Tribunal Chairman in Edinburgh, Scotland, as the new Chief Justice of Tonga.

Webster is replacing Justice Gordon Ward, who has accepted a post with the Court of Appeal of Fiji.

Justice Webster, 64, served as a Supreme Court Judge in Tonga from 1988 to 1991.

Before becoming the Supreme Court Judge, Justice Webster was in the private practice of law in 1968 until becoming Deputy Secretary of the Law Society of Scotland in 1970 and the Secretary of the Scottish Lawyers European Group from 1971-77.

He has worked in the Office of the Solicitor to Secretary of State for Scotland; Legal Draftsman in the Seychelles Government; Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman in Lord Advocate's Department in London; the Senior Parliamentary Counsel of Kenya Government; and the Attorney General of Tuvalu.

He has served as the Temporary Sheriff of Scotland; named as part time Industrial Tribunal Chairman; a Legal Consultant in the Overseas Development Administration; and a full time Employment Tribunal Chairman in Edinburgh.

Fiji soldiers form private security firm

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Radio/PIR)—About 600 former members of Fiji's disciplinary services have set up a company in Suva to provide local and international security services.

Formed by former soldiers, police and prison officers, Homeland Holdings was registered with the Registrar of Companies in April.

Fiji soldiers have cashed in on lucrative contracts to provide private security services alongside military troops in Iraq and other world hotspots.

Acting chief executive officer Josateki Labadai told Radio Fiji that Homeland Holdings is the parent company of Homeland Security Ltd.

He says the security firm aims to provide professional security services to local and overseas clients.

Labadai said the company hopes to lift the standard of security services in the country

to a professional level.

Labadai says each member of the new company has one thousand shares in the company worth \$1,000 (US\$553).

Ousted Nauru president predicts another collapse

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—The new government in Nauru is will have to call fresh elections, or face the same parliamentary gridlock that paralyzed the previous administration, says ousted president Rene Harris.

Harris, ousted in a vote of no confidence yesterday when a single cabinet minister crossed the floor, says he wanted to dissolve parliament entirely and go to the people.

With the government and opposition still finely-balanced, he says the new resident, political opponent Ludwig Scotty, faces exactly the same problems that he did.

"This government now has only just one majority, as I had," Harris said "They'll be finding it very difficult to manage things.

"Only one guy has to be sick one day, or away overseas, and we move a motion and they're out," Nauru's former president said.

Cash strapped Tonga shells out for foreign wars

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—As a small developing country with a depressed economy, Tonga is making an oversized contribution to restoring peace and stability in Iraq and the Solomon Islands.

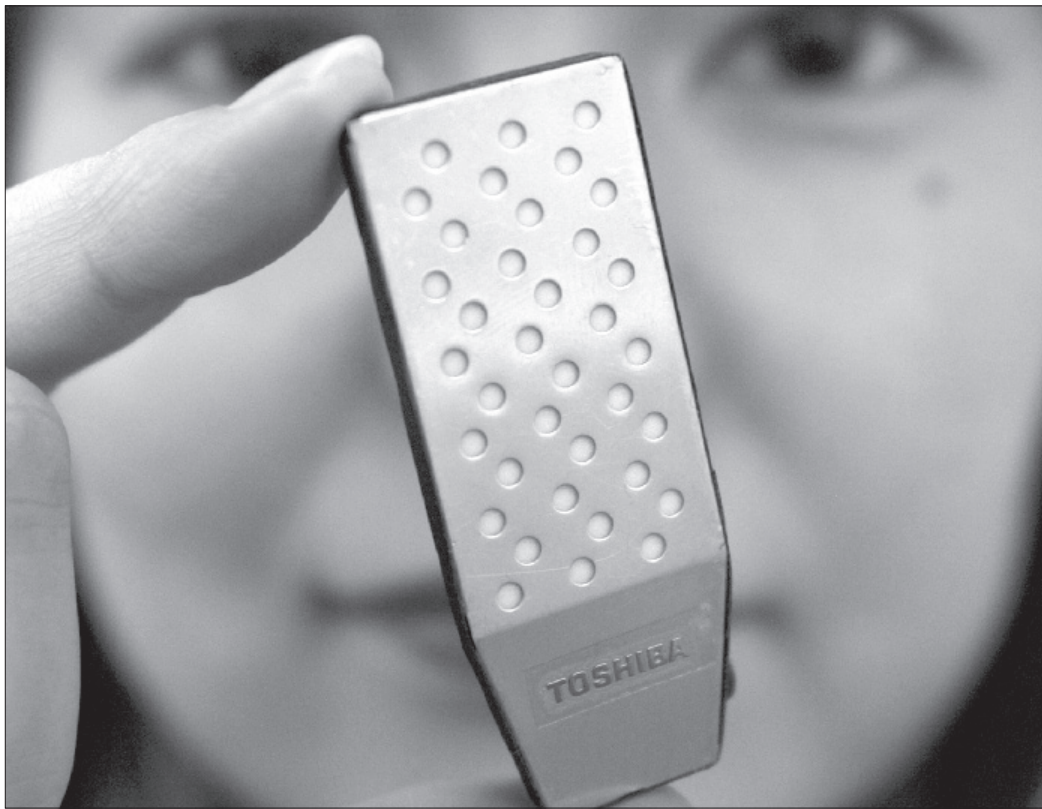
Tonga's Minister of Defense, Prince 'Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, told the Tongan Parliament on June 16 that an increase in allocations in his defense budget from \$240,610 (US\$120,000) to \$400,000 (US\$200,000) was to meet the equipment of Tongan peacekeepers in the Solomons and those who had just left for Iraq.

The Prince said that the expenses of the 45 Tongan soldiers for Iraq are shared between the United States and the Tongan government.

He said that the Tongan government paid for the basic salaries and the living allowances of the soldiers while the U.S. paid for the transportation of the soldiers from Tonga to Iraq, their accommodation, food, their return trip to Tonga, and the transporting of a severely wounded or dead soldier out and back to Tonga.

Business

Gas prices reported down another 7 cents



SMALLEST FUEL CELL

Yumiko Kajino, a public relations staff of Toshiba Corp., displays a prototype of what Toshiba claims is the world's smallest direct methanol fuel cell in Tokyo Thursday, June 24, 2004. Toshiba said the 5.6 centimeter (2.2-inch) long and 8.5-gram (0.3-ounce) fuel cell can power an MP3 audio players for about 20 hours on a single charge of methanol fuel.

By TIM MOLLOY
AP WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gas prices have slipped almost 7 cents in the last two weeks in the second dip in prices this year, an industry analyst said Sunday.

The weighted national average price for all three grades of gasoline fell 6.6 cents to \$1.97 per gallon Friday after rising more than 59 cents between mid-December and June, said analyst Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the semimonthly Lundberg Survey. The survey regularly polls nearly 8,000 gas stations across the United States.

The biggest selling gas, self-serve regular, averaged \$1.94 a gallon.

Lundberg said the recent price drop—which followed another decline two weeks ago—was due in part to oil prices moderating, and to the completion of U.S. refinery maintenance projects undertaken to prepare for summer gasoline demand.

Falling crude oil prices were also a factor. At the New York Mercantile Exchange, crude oil

futures set for August delivery ended trading at \$37.55 a barrel Friday, down from \$38.45 a barrel two weeks earlier.

Crude oil prices had been hovering above \$40 a barrel in previous weeks.

OPEC's decision to increase oil production in July might bring down oil prices further, but fears of terrorism and sabotage in Iraq and Saudi Arabia may contribute to oil price strength, she said.

OPEC, which supplies more than a third of the world's crude, announced earlier this month it would raise its official daily production quota by more than 2 million barrels to 26 million barrels and, if necessary, by an additional 500,000 barrels on Aug. 1.

The national weighted average price of a gallon of gasoline at self-serve pumps on Friday, including taxes, was about \$2.04 for midgrade and \$2.13 for premium.

The most expensive gas in the country was in San Francisco, where regular unleaded sold for \$2.27 a gallon. The cheapest was in Tulsa, Okla., where gas was \$1.69.

EU temporarily lifts Microsoft ruling

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—The European Union on Sunday temporarily suspended a landmark antitrust decision against Microsoft Corp., pending a judge's decision on whether sanctions should be delayed until the company's appeals are exhausted.

The decision came a day before an EU order was to take effect requiring Microsoft to make Windows software available to European PC makers without its digital media player.

In a statement, the EU head office said it agreed to lifting the order temporarily only "in the interest of a proper administration of justice."

However, it added that "the remedies are reasonable, balanced and necessary to restore competition in the marketplace and that there is a strong public interest in favor of implementing them without waiting for

the judgment on the substance of the case."

On Friday, Microsoft asked the EU's high court to issue a long-term order barring the antitrust decision from taking effect while the company's appeal is being considered. EU spokeswoman Amelia Torres said she expected a court ruling in two months on the request.

On March 24, the European Commission declared Microsoft guilty of abusing its "near monopoly" with Windows software. It levied a record fine of 497.2 million euros (\$613 million) and demanded changes in how the company operates in Europe to improve competition globally.

Microsoft was given 90 days—until Monday—to separate the media player from Windows software and 120 days to issue "complete and accurate" information to rivals in the server market so their products

can become fully "interoperable" with desktop computers running Windows.

On June 7, Microsoft filed a 100-page appeal asking the EU high court to annul the EU's antitrust decision and its penalties.

That move in itself did not stop the order, so Microsoft filed a petition last Friday with the EU high court seeking "interim" relief from the antitrust decision.

It wants no penalties imposed while it pursues a final appeal of the ruling. To get its way, it must convince the EU high court it will suffer "irreparable harm" if the measures are implemented now, even if they are reversed later on a final appeal that may take five years or more.

Microsoft said pushing through the antitrust order will hurt software development companies as well as Web site developers "who have built products for the Windows platform."

Tokyo stocks open higher, dollar down

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo stocks opened slightly higher Monday after high-technology shares rose on Wall Street Friday. The U.S. dollar was down against the Japanese yen.

The Nikkei Stock Average of 225 gained 21.48 points, or 0.18 percent, to 11,801.88 points at the market open. On Friday, the index rose 36.25 points, or 0.30 percent.

The dollar was quoted at 107.61 yen Monday morning, down 0.09 yen from late Friday and below the 107.67 yen it bought in New York later that day.

High-technology shares, led by semiconductor testing device

maker Advantest, led Tokyo stocks higher after their New York counterparts rose before the weekend.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index gained 9.90, or 0.5 percent, to end at 2,025.47 Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 71.97, or 0.7 percent, to 10,371.84.

Investors said trading was expected to be subdued Monday ahead of U.S. Federal Open Market Committee decision on interest rates Wednesday and the release Thursday of a key Bank of Japan survey on business sentiment.

In Tokyo on Monday, the broader index of all issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange's first section climbed 3.10 points, or 0.26 percent, to 1,175.54 points. The TOPIX rose 3.48 points, or 0.30 percent on Friday.

In other currencies, the euro rose to US\$1.2171 early Monday in Tokyo from US\$1.2125 late Friday. Against the yen, the euro climbed to 130.90 yen from 130.51 yen.

Japan's benchmark 10-year government bond yield was not quoted early Monday. On Friday, the yield stood at 1.8350 percent and its price was 98.01 points.



The new "fire-safe" cigarettes are denoted by a long black bar above the bar code on this pack of Marlboro Lights which was photographed on Friday, June 25, 2004, in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

NY 'fire-safe' cigarettes law to debut

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—New York on Monday will become the first state to phase in a law requiring tobacco companies to sell "fire-safe" cigarettes, which self-extinguish if they're not puffed on regularly. The law is meant to cut down on the number of smoking-related fires.

For the past several months, companies have rushed to meet the deadline to supply vendors with the new cigarettes, which are wrapped in special ultra-thin banded paper that essentially inhibits burning.

Next to the bar code of a pack of smokes is a tiny mark—an asterisk, a dash or a diamond—indicating that the cigarettes will self-extinguish.

But manufacturers warn that though the new cigarettes go out on their own, they're not fireproof, and careless handling could still lead to fires.

"It's up to individual smokers to make sure that they do not let these products lull them into a false sense of security," said Ellen Matthews, a spokeswoman for R.J. Reyn-

olds Tobacco Co., the nation's No. 2 cigarette maker.

About 900 Americans die each year and another 2,500 are hurt by fires started by cigarettes left unattended.

The lower-ignition paper does nothing to curtail the toxicity of cigarettes or reduce the health effects of smoking.

Philip Morris USA, the nation's No. 1 cigarette maker, has marketed its Merit brand nationally with the banded paper since 2000, but it had to tweak it to meet New York's standards, said Brendan McCormick, a Philip Morris spokesman.

Lorillard Tobacco Co., maker of Newport and Kent, has been selling the lower-ignition cigarettes in the New York market since March.

Last week, anti-smoking advocates sent a letter to the major cigarette makers, urging them to use New York's standards to produce and distribute fire-safe cigarettes to other states. Tobacco companies have said there's no immediate plan to roll out the new cigarettes nationally.

STOCKS	
ASIAN MARKETS	
Japan	11,801.88
South Korea	1,801.88
Hong Kong	11,801.88
Taiwan	11,801.88
China	11,801.88
India	11,801.88
Indonesia	11,801.88
Thailand	11,801.88
Philippines	11,801.88
Singapore	11,801.88
Malaysia	11,801.88
Brunei	11,801.88
LEADING INDICATORS	
DOW	10,371.84 -71.97
NASDAQ	2,025.47 +9.90
S&P	1,134.43 -6.22
MONEY MARKET	
3-month T-bill	1.12%
6-month T-bill	1.12%
1-year T-bill	1.12%
3-month Euro	1.12%
6-month Euro	1.12%
1-year Euro	1.12%
3-month Yen	1.12%
6-month Yen	1.12%
1-year Yen	1.12%
3-month Dollar	1.12%
6-month Dollar	1.12%
1-year Dollar	1.12%

Opinion

Volume XIV, Issue No. 146

Published daily at 2/F Century Insurance Building,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Guam survivor recalls WWII forced march

HAGATNA, Guam (PDN/PIR)—To this day, 71-year-old Bert Unpingco said he feels anxious and gets nervous if he is driving down an unfamiliar road or if his family doesn’t tell him where they’re going to take him.

A survivor of the Manenggon concentration camp during the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II, Unpingco next month will participate in a walk up to the camp in hopes of finding closure to the trauma and tragedy that befell him and thousands of others during the war.

On July 10, 1944, Japanese Lieutenant General Takeshi Takashina, who assumed command of the island in March 1944, ordered all Chamorros throughout the island—men, women, children, the sick and the elderly—evacuated from their villages and marched to concentration camps in the south. Many of the Chamorros were kept in a concentration camp in the Manenggon Valley in Yona.

The walk, which has been dubbed

“Hasu Manenggon: Remember Manenggon—An Island Tribute,” will retrace the last 1.5 miles of the July 10 march to the former concentration campground and the location of the soon-to-be-built Manenggon Memorial Peace Park. “I was part of the march and though I’ve driven into Manenggon ... I always dread it. I think that for many of us, we need to relive that experience to finally put it behind us because I’m very sure it will remove much of the lingering fear that I have and that many others of my generation,” he said.

“That feeling that people don’t care and that you don’t know what will happen – it’s a very bad feeling that sometimes makes you lose your confidence. I wish this event had occurred years ago so that many of us could have let go before we began to enjoy our senior years.

“I think it will cause us to release those emotions, to remember our experiences, learn from it and allow us to pack it, put it in the closet and don’t worry about it anymore.”

Unpingco was only 8 years old when, on December 8, 1941, a man ran into the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica in Hagåtña, interrupting Mass and Unpingco’s First Communion, to warn of the Japanese war planes that flew overhead.

The next day, a bomb was dropped on his family’s home in Hagåtña because the Japanese were trying to destroy the home of his neighbor, American radio-man George Tweed. Through the help of some Chamorros, in particular the Artero family, Tweed managed to evade capture from the Japanese throughout the duration of the occupation.

Unpingco said his family then moved to the area in Chalan Pago, now the site of the Apusento Gardens housing complex, where his family built a ranch. They remained there for most of the almost three-year Japanese occupation.

During his family’s time at the ranch, Unpingco said he really didn’t see the horrors of war as the Japanese soldiers took a liking to him and the other chil-

dren and would teach them songs.

But in the recent months preceding the American liberation of Guam on July 21, 1944 things started to change. Unpingco said it first started with food, as armed Japanese guards would take animals and crops from his family’s ranch.

“Then in July, the local Chamorro officer told us to pack as many things as we can and carry as much as you want to, but not any knives or anything that can be used as a weapon,” Unpingco recalled.

“He said the Japanese were going to put us in a safe place where we wouldn’t get hurt because the fight was going to be on between the Americans and Japanese. But he didn’t know where we were going.”

Unpingco, who was 10 at the time, recalled that when his family left their ranch via what is now Maimai Road and came up to a main road, they ran into “hundreds and hundreds of people,” all marching to the same destination.

Most of the people marching were

barefoot, so many would get pricked by wild taro plants, he said. Unpingco said the path also was very muddy and slippery because, after an especially harsh dry season, the island was in the midst of monsoon rains, causing people to slip and fall.

But nobody could stop walking because if anyone fell behind, the Japanese would start slapping them, yelling, “hayaku, hayaku” or hurry up, Unpingco said. He said it frightened him and many others, causing people to start saying the rosary as they marched because “nobody knew what was going to happen.”

“This all confused me because during the early days of the war, some of Japanese soldiers defended me—gave me food, like a bowl of rice, things like that, to give to my family. They taught me and the other children some of the Japanese songs they were singing,” Unpingco said, then took the time to sing verses of the songs he was taught some six decades ago.

TYPHOON

From Page 1

on Tingting’s rainfall. A preliminary NWS report recorded rainfall at 3.40 inches at the Saipan International Airport from midnight to 2pm yesterday—considered one of the heaviest in the last five years.

“I think this one is very heavy, [when compared] even to [rainfall in] the last five years that I can recall,” the EMO deputy director said.

The typhoon resulted in massive flooding on several portions of Saipan, including a long stretch of Beach Road. Pangelinan also reported flooding in some areas in Tanapag, Afetnas and Lower Base.

Early last night, some Beach Road residents expressed fear about the worsening flood. Fearing that the nearby beaches would overflow and exacerbate the situation, they planned on seeking assistance for possible evacuation.

While the winds caused trees to fall and block roadways, Pangelinan said there was no report of damaged houses as of press time. The intensity of the wind, however, was enough to shake cars.

At least 197 people—including 91 children—took refuge at six evacuation centers. Eighty-four of the evacuees took shelter at the Garapan Elementary School, while 57 individuals stayed at the Kobler Elementary School. The other evacuees went to five other schools for evacuation: Tanapag, San Vicente, Dandan and Oleai elementary schools and Kagman High School.

Garapan Elementary School shelter manager William Lieto said the evacuees started coming to the school Sunday afternoon. Around 8:30am yesterday, the number of evacuees grew to 74.

Alice, 45, said she left the family residence in Chalan Laulau together with 19 others. “We came at 8pm last [Saturday] night. Our house is not ty-

phoon-proof. We need a good shelter,” she said, adding that rainwater began seeping into the house since Saturday.

“This typhoon caught us before the month ends. We have to bring all of our supplies from the house,” said Alice.

She and her family spent the night inside a classroom dimly lit with two candles, while they took breakfast that was cooked and prepared at the place. The youngest member of the family at the shelter is three years old.

Another Chalan Laulau resident, Saturnino Nekaifes, went with his family of six to GES for shelter. He said he brought along needed supplies, including candles. Shortly later, however, GES regained power supply.

The Saipan Tribune experienced the danger in driving on the road amid yesterday’s weather condition, when a big branch suddenly fell from a swaying tree on the way to Capitol Hill, almost hitting the car hood. To avoid being hit, this reporter had to swerve to the opposite lane, where there was fortunately

no approaching vehicle. By noontime, the winds remained strong enough to blow leaves into the air as if they were feathers, even as Tingting was moving farther from Saipan.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s Larry Guerrero said power outages interrupted with the sewer system’s pump station in Tanapag, causing sewage overflow.

As of press time, Guerrero said power has yet to be restored in Capitol Hill, Kagman, As Teo, Sadog Tasi, Papago, Chalan Kiya, Chalan Kanoa and Susupe. A power transformer exploded near the judicial courthouse in Susupe, he said. Guerrero said falling trees affected the CUC’s power lines.

Pangelinan also said nine schools on Saipan were designated as emergency shelters. He said Public School System buses would bring evacuees who have no means of transportation to evacuation shelters. He said those who might need transportation service could call the EMO at 322-8001 to 3, or the shel-

ter nearest to them.

The designated shelters, their respective managers and telephone numbers are as follows:

- Tanapag Elementary School, Lucia Lieto, 664-3425;
- Garapan Elementary School, William Lieto, 664-3400;
- Oleai Elementary School, Edward Suzuki, 664-3942;
- Marianas High School, Joseph Borja, 664-3874;
- San Vicente Elementary School, Mary Brown, 664-3981;
- William S. Reyes Elementary School, Estanislao Limes, 664-3971;
- Kobler Elementary School, Joe Etpison, 664-3961;
- Dandan Elementary School, John Quitugua, 664-5025; and
- Kagman High School, James Lizama, 664-3780.

The EMO advised potential evacuees to bring with them personal supplies, such as food, water, pillows, blankets and medicine.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

in several areas “because the soil had been saturated.”

“Remember that it’s been raining in the past week or so,” he said.

Babauta, who dropped by at the EMO early afternoon, decided to elevate the tropical storm to typhoon condition at about 2:30pm when maximum sustained winds reached 75mph with gusty winds of 90mph.

Babauta said he and other officials visited different emergency shelters on the island.

As of 3pm, the government recorded 197 evacuees that are temporarily sheltered in various schools.

As of 7pm, Babauta who was in Koblerville Elementary School, said that based on forecasts, the heaviest rains were expected last night.

“I think we’re going through the second half of the typhoon. I just talked with EMO and it said that heavy rains

would continue in the next three to four hours,” said the governor.

Hopefully, he said, the typhoon’s strength would lessen beginning today.

No initial estimate of damages has been assessed yet. “It’s still hard to tell because we’re in the middle of it,” Babauta said.

He said the massive flooding would bring damage to properties, cars, and crops.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. emergency response staff Larry Guerrero said falling trees had damaged several electric poles causing power interruptions. He

said the CUC trouble desk was activated to respond to emergency calls.

Meantime, EMO staff John Mario and Digna Kaainoa said that EMO’s seven lines and hotlines were ringing continuously with calls from residents wanting to get weather updates.

Secretary Reyes said his team had been alerted 24 hours to clear roads of fallen trees and other obstructions.

Public Safety Commissioner Ed Camacho said the situation was “tough.” “There’s lots of water damage,” he said.

He said the heavy downpour had caused ravines to enlarge, rocks to fall, and streams to overflow. “We advise the public to take extra caution when driving,” he said.

Babauta said “people should better stay indoor” when they can. “Stay dry. Stay at home,” he said.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero, who went to EMO yesterday afternoon, also visited emergency shelters. “I’m doing my rounds with my son to assess the situation,” he said.

CANCELLED

From Page 1

open during Saturday and Sunday but several flights in and out of Saipan were either delayed or cancelled due to zero visibility. Two flights bound for Guam were diverted to Saipan and Manila, Philippines, when Guam International Airport reportedly delayed all air transportation operation due to the storm.

As of 4pm Monday, Continental Airlines said that based on improved weather conditions, flights were allowed at 2:30pm. The first flight for Guam arrived at 2:30pm followed by a flight from Houston that departed GIA at 4:30pm.

But at 6pm, CPA disclosed that only one Continental flight proceeded with its schedule and management decided to cancel four remaining flights to and from the Guam International Airport.

Salas also said that JAL, which earlier signified its intention to fly to Saipan, decided to return to Japan.

Continental Airlines officials said that it plans to operate a regular flight schedule today as weather condition improves.

“Continental Airlines recommends that customers who are scheduled to travel from Guam or Saipan to stay tuned to local radio and TV stations for announcements on the flight changes.

Continental Airlines will continue to inform its customers through community media outlets as more information becomes available,” said a media statement released yesterday. For inquiries, Continental Airlines designated Lou Sanchez at 671-647-6453 for Guam or 760-234-6492 on Saipan.

Also, CPA reported that Northwest Airlines, which canceled Sunday’s flight, and Japan Airlines both went back on track Monday with the arrival of Saipan-bound flight from Tokyo at 5:30pm and 6:30pm from Narita.

Asiana Airlines, meanwhile, went back on track Monday midnight, with its 12:20am and 1:30am flights to Saipan proceeding as scheduled.

“CPA is working closely with the airlines. It is their discretion if they want to proceed with their flight schedules but we are working with them to ensure that it would be safe for all concerned. The airlines want to catch up and take care of their backlogs that accumulated over the weekend due to several cancelled flights,” said Salas in an interview.

Salas said things are coming back on track as CPA arranges working on different timing and schedule of arrivals and departures to accommodate all flights in and out of the Saipan International Airport.

He said Guam was temporarily inaccessible on Sunday afternoon but

Guam International Airport was working hard to normalize its operations.

“Guam is working hard and gearing up for its operation. It is waiting for flights to come back and all their facilities are also back,” he added.

On Saipan, all small aircraft deferred inter-island transit due to strong winds and zero visibility.

Salas also said that the Saipan Seaport remained closed up to Monday afternoon and is expected to return to normal operation today when the typhoon leaves Saipan.

“Everything would be calm and back to normal hopefully tomorrow [today] and we would get everything back and ready,” he assured.

Cassini set for 4-year orbit of Saturn

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Two decades and \$3.3 billion in the making, an international exploration of Saturn begins this week when a spacecraft slips through a gap in the planet's shimmering rings and arcs into orbit.

After a seven-year, 2.2 billion-mile journey, the Cassini spacecraft will fire its engine Wednesday night to slow down, allowing itself to be captured by Saturn's gravity. The maneuver will inaugurate a four-year, 76-orbit tour of the giant planet and some of its 31 known moons, including huge Titan.

To scientists, Saturn and its rings are a model of the disk of gas and dust that initially surrounded the sun, and they hope the mission offers important clues about how the planets formed.

Shortly after entering orbit, Cassini will act on its best chance to photograph the rings that have entranced astronomers for centuries.

"We'll never be that close to the rings as immediately after the insertion," said Charles Elachi, director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and team leader for Cassini's radar instrument.

Cassini, laden with a dozen instruments, also carries a probe

named Huygens that will be launched into the murky atmosphere of Titan.

The frozen moon intrigues scientists because it may have many of the chemical compounds that existed on Earth before life began.

Named for 17th century Saturn observers Jean Dominique Cassini and Christiaan Huygens, the joint project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency dates back to proposals made in 1982.

Many of the project's 260 scientists have spent years just planning the mission, building Cassini at JPL in Pasadena and getting the spacecraft out to Saturn.

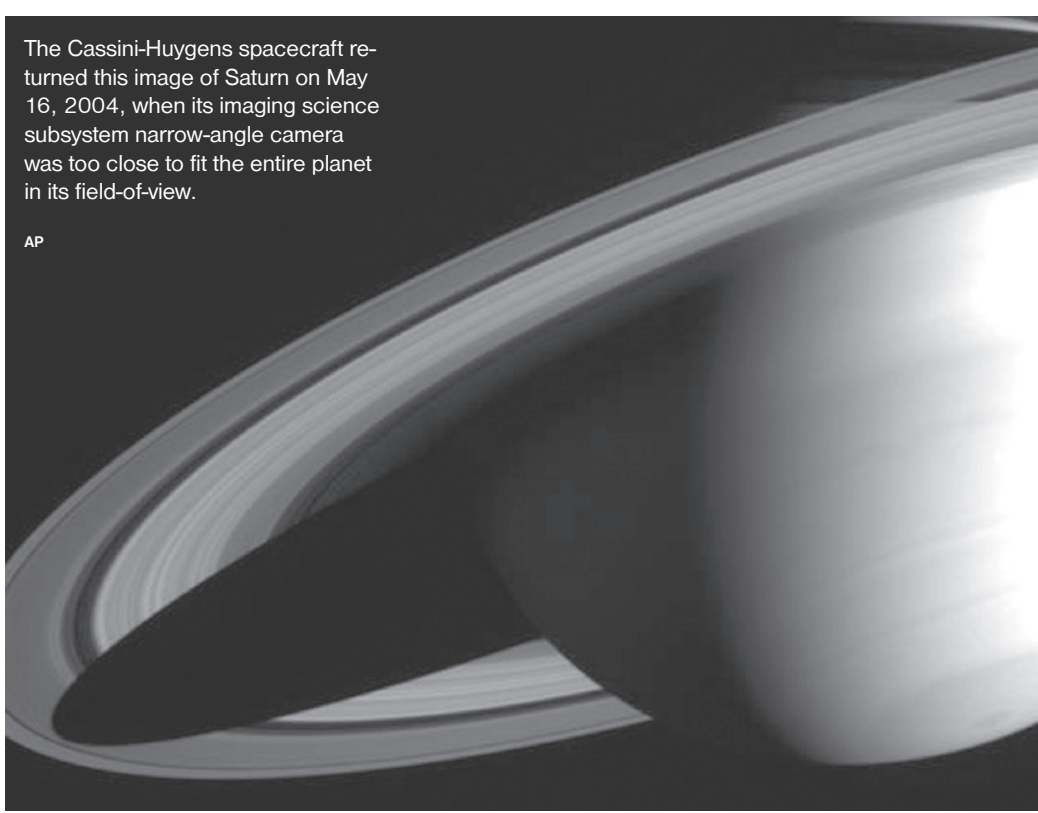
"We received our letters of acceptance of being team leaders or team members almost 15 years ago," Elachi noted at a briefing this month. "So as you could imagine my colleagues have great anticipation."

Cassini has already been sending data to Earth, including a wealth of information and sharp images from a close flyby of Saturn's strange, battered old moon Phoebe.

"It's a great curtain raiser for the Saturn show that's about to start at the end of the month,"

The Cassini-Huygens spacecraft returned this image of Saturn on May 16, 2004, when its imaging science subsystem narrow-angle camera was too close to fit the entire planet in its field-of-view.

AP



JPL imaging team member Torrence Johnson said.

Cassini is 22 feet long, 13.1 feet wide and weighed nearly 12,600 pounds loaded with fuel and the probe. Too far from the sun to rely on solar panels, it uses nuclear power to provide electricity.

People who worried that an accident could release nuclear material protested Cassini's Oct. 15, 1997, launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla. There was more concern when Cassini made a 1999 Earth flyby, but all went as planned.

The wok-shaped Huygens

probe, developed by the European Space Agency, will be released from Cassini in December and will enter Titan's atmosphere in January.

Just under 9 feet in diameter and weighing 705 pounds, its six instruments will investigate Titan's atmosphere and then its

surface, if it survives the impact of landing after a 2 1/2-hour descent by parachute.

It may not find a hard surface, however, and instead splash down into liquid ethane, which would quickly shut down the probe.

The probe will radio data back to Cassini up to a maximum of 30 minutes after touchdown. By then, either its batteries will have failed or Cassini will have passed over Titan's horizon.

In 2000, mission officials discovered a problem that would have prevented Cassini from receiving most of that data. The design had not accounted for the Doppler effect, which will change the frequency of the transmissions as Huygens falls through the atmosphere.

Jean-Pierre Lebreton, ESA's Huygens project manager, assured reporters earlier this month that the problem was fixed. But he said testing would continue until scientists were sure.

According to Elachi, some scientists believe Titan has a "prebiotic" environment in which there is organic, or carbon-based, chemistry, but the surface temperature of minus 290 degrees Fahrenheit is inhospitable to life.

Airport to test advance security checks

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—A select group of frequent fliers is getting a chance to bypass extra security inspections at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, but to do that they must submit to background checks in advance.

On Monday, Minnesota's largest airport becomes the first in the country to start signing up a hand-picked group of people for a 90-day pilot program for the Transportation Security Administration.

Only frequent fliers contacted by Northwest Airlines are eligible. Northwest spokesman Thomas Becher said 1,600 people had expressed interest as of Friday, and only 30 of those contacted were not interested.

"Clearly, it's in our interest and our passengers' interest to make air travel a more ef-

ficient experience," he said.

The TSA wants to sign up 2,000 people to participate, said spokeswoman Amy Von Walter.

The agency announced earlier this month that the trial program would begin at the Twin Cities airport before expanding to Boston, Los Angeles, Houston and Washington.

The TSA could expand the program nationally based on the tests results and funding, spokesman Mark Hatfield said.

Participants in the pilot program will be required to give the government their name, address, phone number, birth date and "biometric identifiers," including fingerprint and iris scan. That information will be matched against law enforcement and intelligence databases such as the terrorist watch list.

Starting sometime in July, participants will be able to pass through a special lane at one of the airport's security checkpoints.

They will not be able to bypass the metal detector and screens for carry-on bags, but would avoid more intensive secondary screening if they do not set off any security devices.

Passengers now are subject to these checks if a security alarm registers or if a computer-assisted screening program detects something unusual—a one-way ticket or ticket bought with cash, for example.

The test program is free for the volunteers, but if the program is expanded nationally, registered travelers could expect to pay a fee to cover administrative costs, officials have said.

Some say Peterson prosecutors faltering

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP)—As Scott Peterson's double-murder trial enters its second month, many courtroom observers say the prosecution's case appears to be faltering.

Defense attorney Mark Geragos has used prosecution witnesses to bolster his argument that authorities conducted a shoddy investigation before charging Peterson with killing his pregnant wife.

Geragos was scheduled to resume his cross-examination Monday of Detective Allen Brocchini, the first investigator assigned to the report that Laci Peterson had vanished. Last week, Geragos got Brocchini to admit to several investigative lapses.

"It's still a horse race. It's just not a close one right now," said former Alameda County prosecutor Michael Cardoza, now a practicing criminal defense lawyer.

Peterson, 31, is accused of murdering his pregnant wife on or around Dec. 24, 2002, then sinking her body in San Francisco Bay. Defense lawyers say he was fishing on the bay when Laci Peterson disappeared, and that someone else must have abducted her near their Modesto home, then framed Peterson after hearing his well-publicized alibi.

Over two days of questioning last week, Geragos cornered Brocchini on several details of the investigation, including:

□ That police didn't fully ex-

haust the lead that a witness reported seeing a pregnant woman walking a golden retriever, the same kind of dog the Petersons had, on Dec. 24. Brocchini said the witness couldn't positively identify the pregnant woman as Laci Peterson.

□ That Brocchini's report didn't include a police interview with a woman who saw Laci Peterson at the warehouse where her husband stored his small boat. Prosecutors have insisted that Peterson hid the boat as part of his plan. Attorneys in the case have been barred from speaking with reporters about the case, but police say other police reports include the woman's recollection.



Calif. woman survives mountain lion attack

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman was attacked by a mountain lion while hiking in central California, but was rescued when her friends stabbed the animal with a knife and threw rocks at it, officials said.

Shannon Parker lost her right eye, was injured in her other eye and suffered deep lacerations to her right thigh during the attack Saturday, officials with the California Department of Fish and Game said.

Parker, 27, of Santa Monica, was transferred to UCLA Medical Center, where she underwent reconstructive surgery Sunday morning, Game and Fish spokesman Steve Martarano said.

Parker's family asked UCLA not to release her condition, hospital spokeswoman Rachel Shampau said.

Authorities said Parker was hiking with three male friends about 20 miles north of Kernville when the 70-pound female lion attacked her, Martarano said. The lion ran off after Parker's friends stabbed it and threw rocks at it.

The lion left a bloody trail as it fled, and was later shot and killed by U.S. Forest Service officers and state game wardens, Martarano said.

The lion "appeared to be emaciated" and officials will do a necropsy Monday to determine whether it was sick or injured, Martarano said.

Father kills paralyzed son, then himself

DENVER (AP)—A father fatally shot his paralyzed 40-year-old son, then killed himself after officials rejected his request for help caring for the son, authorities said.

Police found the bodies Friday after entering Gerald E. Carabetta's home. Neighbors had reported newspapers piled up in front of the residence.

Carabetta had told neighbors he was overwhelmed and could not get help for his son,

Robert, who was paralyzed in a bar fight three years ago.

"He had a hard time taking care of that boy," said Dave Lantzy, a former business partner and neighbor for 30 years. "He was distraught. He didn't look healthy."

The father and son had often gone fly fishing and camping in years past, but they were rarely seen outside the home more recently. Carabetta quit his job as a mechanic to care for his son.

"He made his trips to the store, and that was about it. People didn't come around much to see them," Lantzy said.

Police spokeswoman Virginia Lopez said Carabetta left a note, but she wouldn't reveal its contents. Neighbor Cheryl Eaton said Carabetta was recently diagnosed with emphysema.

NH church splits apart over gay bishop

ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP)—Hymns were raised to the heavens from two parts of town Sunday after a church split apart over the election of the first openly gay bishop to head an Episcopal diocese.

Bishop V. Gene Robinson assumed leadership of the Diocese of New Hampshire last year, shocking many conservative Episcopalians and Anglicans worldwide.

Since then, many members of the Church of the Redeemer threatened to leave the congregation unless Robinson relinquished authority over the church in Rochester, about 30 miles east of Concord. Thirty-six members voted this week to leave. Just three voted to stay.

In response, nearby Grace Baptist Church invited Episcopalians fleeing from Redeemer to attend a joint service.

At the same time, Redeemer held services for a handful of remaining members, who were joined by dozens of supporters from other Episcopal churches and by Robinson and his partner, Mark Andrew.

Parishioners on both sides described the day as a new beginning.

"Today, your resurrection begins," preached the Rev. Tim Rich at Redeemer. "You begin a new journey in the Holy Spirit."

Asia



World

tribune graduation ad

Overdrive

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joeten motors truck
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Life & Style

Bold steps on a road where giants have tread

By BETTIJANE LEVINE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The man who may be the next Hemingway is basically unreachable.

At first call, Marc Bojanowski is bike riding down by the Russian River. At the next, he is actually in the river. Fishing. He has no cell phone. Doesn't believe in them. And he has no home. Is temporarily camping at his parents' house. Or maybe in their tool shed (he never says which).

The shed is the place from which he eventually calls a reporter's answering machine. But instead of leaving word on how to reach him for an interview, he interviews himself. On the machine:

Bojanowski: "How would you describe your new book?"

Bojanowski: "It's a love story."

Bojanowski: "Where are you from and what was your childhood like?"

Bojanowski: "I am from what was once a rural portion of Northern California. My childhood was idyllic. We were let loose to run in oak savannas, and it shaped our imaginations."

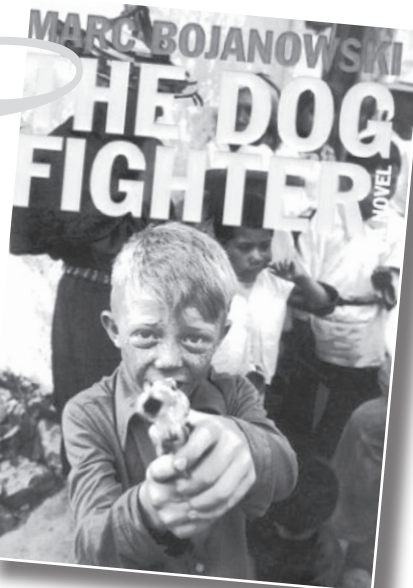
He ends his message on a way-too-graphic note, saying he wanted to be a baseball player but tore his rotator cuff in an erotic exercise—one best left undescribed here.

This is not exactly the interview that was envisioned.

After finally connecting, Bojanowski apologizes for leaving the bawdy message. He says he thought it would be funny. He is sitting outside his parents' shed. "Can you hear the mockingbirds? And the wind in the poplars?"

Bojanowski is 27. His first book, "The Dog Fighter," is making literary ripples. The publisher, William Morrow, was reportedly "so struck by the beauty of Bojanowski's writing," and so heartened by book-sellers' enthusiasm after 5,000 advance copies were sent out that they upped the initial printing to 30,000. A New York Times review was somewhat snide but ended up likening Bojanowski to Hemingway:

"Somehow his novel, though dripping with macho cliches, manages to transcend cliché. Or maybe it simply embodies it with such commitment



that it pulls off the wicked trick of making his cliches seem vital and new, just as that great fight writer Hemingway did."

"With all due respect," Bojanowski says, The New York Times "got it wrong." He is more a disciple of author Cormack McCarthy, he says. "I read McCarthy's 'Blood Meridian' when I was 18 and it kicked me in the head." He has never been the same, literarily speaking.

Bojanowski's book is something of a head tackle. It is primal and elemental, a simply told fable of love, hate, greed, good and evil—all grinding against each other like tectonic plates. The book's title has been called "unfortunate" in this petophile era. But it is accurate.

Set in the 1940s, in a fictional village in Baja California, it's the tale of a poor

and violent young man who fights dogs for fun and profit. He fights with a rug wrapped around his arm and a steel claw strapped over it. The dogs have their own battle advantage: Trained to be vicious, their teeth have been sawed into pointy needles. In each contest, either man or dog must die.

Like bullfighting and cockfighting, it is possible that this kind of dogfighting actually existed, the reader may think. An ancient Mexican tradition is what it's called in the book. But it is a figment of Bojanowski's imagination, he says. There never was such a thing.

Bojanowski's unnamed hero lives through all his dogfights, of course, because he has to. He is the book's narrator. And also because he is very big, very strong and very handsome. Too beautiful to die. And he understands pretty early on—he is smart and sensitive too—that dogfighting isn't his cup of tequila. So he looks for something better, which gets him into trouble.

He meets the town Trump—a man with the vision to see just how lucrative and upscale the little seaside spot will be once hotels are built and American tourists are flowing. He also meets the town poet—a man who fights to keep the town as it is. Poor, but pure and simple. It is a village in which light reflects off the ocean, the hills are unsullied and abloom, the little huts are like ants around the town's true center, its big cathedral.

But as the story takes hold, the town's first hotel is rising; it will be bigger than the church. It will blot out the sun, corrupt the beach, flat-

ten the hillsides, enslave the townspeople as servants—or enrich them, depending on who the dogfighter chooses to believe.

The dogfighter—in the throes of rhapsodic, unconsummated love with a town vixen—has both sides vying for his support. And no idea which way to turn. He turns both ways, which propels him toward disaster.

Bojanowski did research on the place and the time period by studying old periodicals, maps, tourist guidebooks—"and a lot was left up to my imagination."

Does any of this sound compelling? Well, it isn't in the book's first third, which reads like a student hoax—a simulation of Papa's style but without his talent. Just when you're ready to throw in the towel, a certain poetry commences. A pulse erupts that keeps you reading, carries you straight to the heart of this tale—the dogfighter's unfulfilled passion—on a wave of some spectacular imagery and writing.

Bojanowski says he knows his book is "flawed. Terribly flawed." It is his first, after all. But his idea of flaws are not those most readers would pick on. The book has no commas or apostrophes. It has a plethora of periods that seem totally out of place. He writes simple, declarative sentences, which he then hacks in half and ends with a dot. Like a kid bisecting an earthworm to see if both ends wiggle. Why? In fact, Bojanowski says, he cuts sentences in half to make people slow down. Like road bumps. He believes we read too quickly, without thinking.

A doctor's book looks light, runs deep

By SUSAN REIMER
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Physician Sheldon Margulies believes his new book, "The Fascinating Body: How it Works," belongs in the classroom—or the bathroom.

The neurologist and internist has written a comprehensive explanation of how the human body functions that he thinks could be a revolutionary high school biology textbook.

But he has done it by taking common questions—Why does hair turn gray? What are hiccups?—and providing bite-sized answers that can be read in a brief bathroom visit, he says.

"Anybody who reads this book from beginning to end can put an M.D. after their name," says the physician.

"The Fascinating Body" (Scarecrow Education/Rowman & Littlefield, \$39.95) had its beginnings in Margulies' son's fifth-grade class project. When the boy told his father that they would be dissecting an eyeball the next day in class, Margulies offered to provide a set of curiosity-based questions to supplement the exercise.

"Why do we have two eyes? Why does it take so long to find a seat in a darkened movie theater? Why, when

your dad turns on the light in your room at 5 a.m. to take you fishing, do you squint?" recalls Margulies.

His son politely declined the brownie points that would come from his father's help, but Margulies felt that he was onto something.

"I was flipping the learning process," he says. "I was working backward from the observable experience to the underlying anatomy and physiology."

Most high school biology textbooks begin with the carbon atom and work up to the cell and then go onto organ systems, he says.

"All the while, the kids are yawning: 'What has this got to do with me?'"

But if you start with something the students have experienced themselves—an inner ear infection or the light and dark meat of chicken—students will be much more open to the science behind the explanation.

"The Fascinating Body" is written for the high school student, but any adult might be curious to know what a second wind really is or why some people are right-handed and others left-handed.

But this is not simply a collection of oddball information about the human body.

Stalin's favorite pianos a hit in America

TALLINN, Estonia (AP)—More than 50 years after Josef Stalin set up the Soviet Union's premier piano plant in this Baltic Sea state, the despot's favorite pianos are back in red-hot demand—in the United States.

"I've never seen a piano light up the market like the Estonia," said John Cordogan, owner of the PianoLand store in suburban Chicago, where a glistening Estonia presides center-stage in a showroom otherwise crowded with American and Japanese pianos. "They're our only product that sells before they even arrive."

The Estonias are lucky to still exist at all.

After Stalin received an Estonian-made piano as a gift, the iron-fisted ruler established the Estonia Piano Factory and made sure it was the U.S.S.R.'s sole concert piano supplier.

But when the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991, so did the factory's only market. By 1995, production had fallen from 500 to 50 pianos a year.

Quality also suffered. Frames cracked; piano wires slipped loose.

That's when concert pianist Indrek Laul, then 27 and recently graduated from New York's Juilliard School of Music, offered to buy the plant. Convinced it was a sinking ship, shareholders gladly accepted.

"It was a risk," recalled Laul, who

declined to say how much he paid. "But I did have confidence."

He also had an entrepreneurial spirit his predecessors lacked, and he quickly concluded that the only option was to go West.

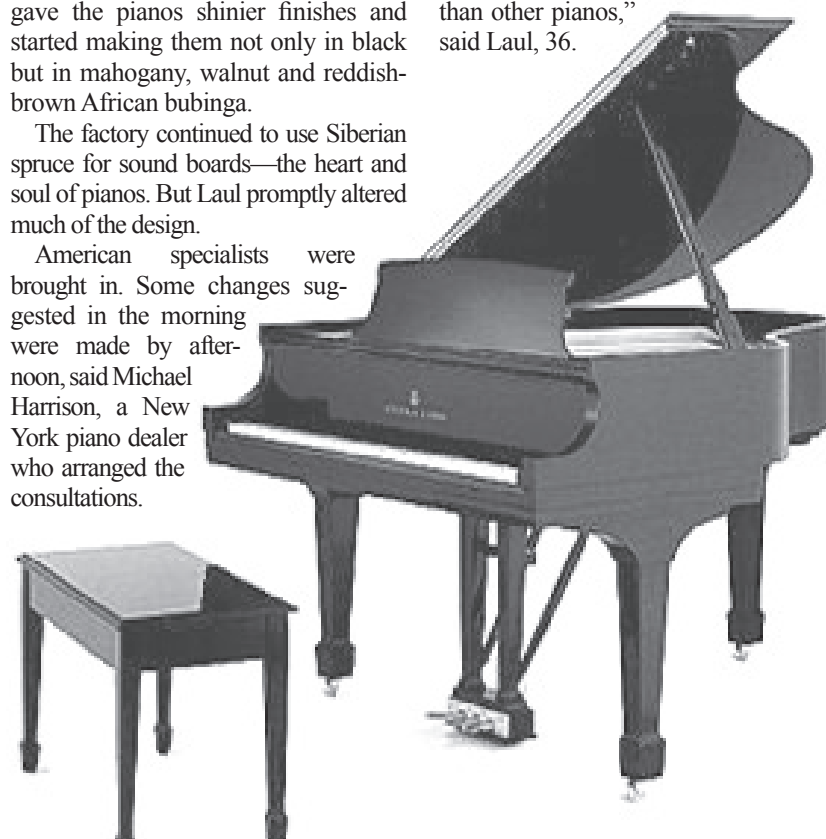
To appeal to American tastes, he gave the pianos shinier finishes and started making them not only in black but in mahogany, walnut and reddish-brown African bubinga.

The factory continued to use Siberian spruce for sound boards—the heart and soul of pianos. But Laul promptly altered much of the design.

American specialists were brought in. Some changes suggested in the morning were made by afternoon, said Michael Harrison, a New York piano dealer who arranged the consultations.

During a tour of the labyrinthine factory, Laul shoved a stool under one of the handmade pianos and played Liszt's Nocturne No. 3 to demonstrate the product.

"I'd compare the sound, well, to a fine Merlot wine—warmer and richer than other pianos," said Laul, 36.



'Fahrenheit 9/11' sets documentary record

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" took in a whopping \$21.8 million in its first three days, becoming the first documentary ever to debut as Hollywood's top weekend film.

If Sunday's estimates hold when final numbers are released Monday, "Fahrenheit 9/11" would set a record in a single weekend as the top-grossing documentary ever outside of concert films and movies made for huge-screen IMAX theaters.

Adding the film's haul at two New York City theaters where it opened Wednesday, two days earlier than the rest of the country, boosted "Fahrenheit 9/11" to \$21.96 million.

"Bowling for Columbine," Moore's 2002 Academy Award-winning documentary, previously held the documentary record with \$21.6 million.

"Fahrenheit 9/11," Moore's assault on President Bush's actions after the 2001 terrorist attacks, won the top honor at last month's Cannes Film Festival and has attracted attention from both sides in the presidential campaign.

The movie has been embraced by left-wing groups, which mobilized members to see it during the opening weekend. Conservative groups sought to discourage theaters from showing it and asked the Federal Election



Director Michael Moore speaks during a news conference about his film "Fahrenheit 9/11," Sunday, June 27, 2004, in New York.

Commission to examine its ads for potential violations of campaign-finance law regulating when commercials may feature a presidential candidate.

"I want to thank all the right-

wing organizations out there who tried to stop the film, either from their harassment campaign that didn't work on the theater owners, or going to the FEC to get our ads removed from tele-

vision, to all the things that have been said on television," Moore said. "It's only encouraged more people to go and see it."

The Wayans brothers' comedy "White Chicks," about two black FBI agents who go undercover as white debutantes, opened in second place with \$19.6 million for the weekend. That pushed the total for "White Chicks" to \$27.1 million since opening Wednesday.

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story," slipped to third place, taking in \$18.5 million and pushing its 10-day total to \$67.2 million. Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks' "The Terminal" fell from second to fourth place with \$13.9 million, raising its 10-day gross to \$41.8 million.

Premiering in fifth place with \$13 million was the tearjerker romance "The Notebook," featuring Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams, James Garner and Gena Rowlands.

Despite good reviews, the family film "Two Brothers," about tiger siblings separated in youth and reunited as opponents in the ring as grown cats, opened weakly at No. 9 with \$6.2 million.

"Fahrenheit 9/11" opened in 868 theaters, a wide release for a documentary but narrow compared to big Hollywood flicks. The film averaged \$25,115 a the-

ater, compared to \$7,190 in 2,726 cinemas for "White Chicks."

Distributors Lions Gate and IFC Films plan to put "Fahrenheit 9/11" into a couple of hundred more theaters this Wednesday, when competition heats up with the release of "Spider-Man 2," summer's most-anticipated movie.

Lions Gate and IFC came on board after Disney refused to let subsidiary Miramax release "Fahrenheit 9/11" because of its political content. Miramax bosses Harvey and Bob Weinstein bought back the film and went looking for independent distributors.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final

figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Fahrenheit 9/11,"** \$21.8 million.
2. **"White Chicks,"** \$19.6 million.
3. **"Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story,"** \$18.5 million.
4. **"The Terminal,"** \$13.9 million.
5. **"The Notebook,"** \$13 million.
6. **"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban,"** \$11.4 million.
7. **"Shrek 2,"** \$10.5 million.
8. **"Garfield: The Movie,"** \$7 million.
9. **"Two Brothers,"** \$6.2 million.
10. **"The Stepford Wives,"** \$5.2 million.

Family friendly television group growing

NEW YORK (AP)—Frustrated by a paucity of family-oriented TV programs where she felt comfortable placing her company's commercials, Pfizer's Kaki Hinton met for lunch five years ago with executives at nine other corporations who had similar complaints.

There was little indication that it would be anything more than a gripe session.

Instead, it was the birth of a group, the Family Friendly Programming Forum, that can claim a real impact on the kind

of shows that the major broadcast networks are airing.

The forum provided seed money to help develop seven programs on the networks' fall schedule (four holdovers and three new series).

"I think we've turned around attitudes," said Bill McCarron, co-chairman of the forum with Hinton. "You listen to any upfront (fall schedule presentation) and every network talks about family-oriented programming now. Five years ago they were afraid to."

At that time, broadcast

networks were nervous about seeming old-fashioned compared to cable outlets that had fewer content restrictions, Hinton said. Edgy material was in.

The advertisers who founded the forum—including Johnson & Johnson, Kellogg, IBM, Sears and Coca-Cola—had no idea how to promote alternatives until hearing an idea from Jamie Kellner, then chief executive of the WB network.

Kellner suggested the executives read prospective scripts and help finance ones they believed

families could watch together.

The WB submitted nine scripts that first year, the only network to participate.

This year, the forum reviewed 51 scripts sent in by ABC, CBS, NBC and the WB, Hinton said. Thirty-seven scripts received money, generally \$45,000 to \$75,000. If one of those scripts becomes a show that makes it to air, as happened three times this year, the advertisers are reimbursed. A pilot episode for a scripted series often costs about \$1 million to produce.

Top-Ranked DJ: Lord of the Trance

By **RICHARD HARRINGTON**
2004, THE WASHINGTON POST

You won't find DJ Tiesto jumping up and down shouting, "I'm number one! I'm number one!" even though the world's top-ranked DJ has much to crow about.

After all, he's been ranked No. 1 in DJ magazine's Top 100 DJs poll two years running, the first time that has ever happened. In 2002, Tiesto, who's from Holland, became the first non-U.K.-based DJ to reach No. 1. Last year, 62,000 voters from 120 countries decided he deserved a second term.

Tiesto, whose real name is Tijs Verwest, is surprisingly mellow about the politics of polls and the possibility of a three-peat.

Calling in from St. Laurent on France's Cote d'Azur, Tiesto

insists, "I felt more pressure before I became number one, because then you're really eager to get in that position because it's the most impressive position you can be in. But once you've made it, it's all right because no one can take this away from you anymore. A lot of people can become equal but never higher. I actually feel more relaxed now than I felt a couple of years ago, but I still want to be number one, of course. To stay number one is my main target for this year, but it's a little less pressure because of being number one twice."

His secret? "I concentrate on good tunes and play good sets."

Ah, the DJ-producer-artist credo encapsulated!

Tiesto, dubbed Lord of the Trance for his mastery of that electronic/dance idiom, is also



celebrating the release of his second "artist" album, "Just Be."

"I made it for myself and for the dance floor," Tiesto says, calling "Just Be" "a DJ record for me to play out in my shows" (Tiesto usually spins as much as 75 percent of his own tracks and has suggested that the future of

DJ-ing is to include as much original material as possible). It's full of his chronically upbeat progressive trance tracks, including "Traffic," a current club favorite, and "Love Comes Again," a trans-Atlantic collaboration with Maryland-bred progressive house king BT.

College-bound girl unfazed by family's lack of support

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: Please urge "Depressed About the Future" to complete her education. I, too, was a younger child (fourth out of five) and only the second of 27 grandchildren to go to college.

My mother ordered me not to talk about college around my siblings, and my brother said I was a snob for wanting a better education. I am so glad I didn't listen to them.

Both of my parents told me how proud they were of me when I received my first degree. And as adults, one sister has earned two B.A.s, and another sister and brother have taken many college classes. The brother who called me a snob is now in college at age 54. He still teases me about being "Susie Co-ed," but he loves college and regrets not having gone sooner.

B.S., M.S., FROM OHIO

DEAR M.S.: I applaud your determination and perseverance—and that's no B.S. Readers all over the country have written to offer advice and emotional support. Read on for some samples:

DEAR ABBY: When I was 15 I announced at the dinner table that I was going to college. My parents said I should forget it because they didn't have the money. I said, "If I want to go to college, I'll find a way." And I did! It was the most empowering thing I have ever done.

Please tell "Depressed" that no dream is too big. I am now a trained professional with a graduate degree.

DID IT IN MARIETTA, GA.

DEAR DID IT: Bravo!

DEAR ABBY: My husband, Phil, and I were the first in our families to receive university degrees. We did it together, living in a one-room apartment near campus living on \$90 a month from Phil's G.I. Bill. We ate lots of macaroni and cheese, attended a church within walking distance (we had no car), and graduated in three years with bachelor of science degrees. Later, we earned M.A.E. degrees by going to the university on Friday and Saturday nights. (I graduated with honors.) There is nothing as costly as NOT getting an education.

The best advice I can offer from the perspective of my own education, and that of the hundreds of college students I have taught, is this:

- (1) Believe in yourself and do your best.
- (2) Be enthusiastic and make friends.
- (3) Wring from your college experience every opportunity to learn the basics in your chosen field, and attend the elective seminars—the all-campus lectures—to broaden your horizons.
- (4) Learn to disagree without being disagreeable.
- (5) Recognize learning as an introduction to learning more on your own.
- (6) You owe it to yourself, your children, your employer and your community to GO FOR IT!

M. BALLOU, Ph.D., Ed.D., PAST PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

DEAR DR. BALLOU: You have my respect and admiration. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know how many thousands of young people your letter has inspired today?

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)



Dear Abby

Tunick photographs 2,750 cold, nude folks

CLEVELAND (AP)—Spencer Tunick's latest human art installation included 2,750 shivering people—all of them nude.

Tunick, a photographer known for taking pictures of naked people in public places, snapped the photos at a park be-

hind the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum along Lake Erie Saturday as temperatures hovered around 50 degrees.

The sea of nude bodies set a North American record for the largest group of naked people in a photograph. Montreal had the

previous record with 2,500.

For one photo, Tunick posed the crowd lying on their sides facing the city. After completing the shot from atop a 40-foot scissor lift, Tunick said: "That's the best picture I've ever taken."

A photo print will be on view

at the Museum of Contemporary Art from Aug. 6-8.

"This is the only way I'm ever going to get in a museum," said Scott Goodrick, 45, of Cleveland. "I think his work is beautiful. It's an event I wanted to be a part of."



Over 2,700 nude models pose for photographer Spencer Tunick in downtown Cleveland, Saturday, June 26, 2004.

AP

Jessica Lange, Sam Shepard to sell estate

STILLWATER, Minn. (AP)—Oscar winner Jessica Lange and her companion, the playwright Sam Shepard, are selling the estate where they have lived for nine years.

The 12-room Victorian mansion, which sits on a 2 1/2-acre site overlooking the St. Croix River, has been on the market since mid-May with an asking price of \$3.3 million.

"It's a remarkable property in every respect," said real es-

tate agent Sharon O'Flannigan, who is handling the sale.

In 1995, Lange and Shepard paid \$415,000 for the house—a former bed-and-breakfast built in 1892 atop one of Stillwater's highest points—and \$125,000 for adjoining property.

Shepard also has land across the St. Croix near River Falls, Wis. Lange was born and grew up in northern Minnesota.



Lange

Moby, Lunachick lead Coney mermaid parade

NEW YORK (AP)—Moby, Dick and a Lunachick celebrated a rite of summer in Brooklyn's annual Mermaid Parade, joining about 1,500 people who marched along the Coney Island boardwalk, many in nautical dress.

Techno artist Moby and punk rocker Theo Kogan of the Lunachicks were crowned as King Neptune and Queen Mermaid at the 22nd annual event on Saturday. Moby thanked the cheering crowd, joking that he was "enjoying the fruits of my power."

The parade is the creation of the tattooed and goateed Dick Zigun, who marched

beneath a top hat.

Mermaids were joined by walking cans of tuna, and several participants—including one in a gorilla costume—rode in a hearse. Sean Allison, 35, sat on the hood.

"It was a howl," Allison said. "It was awesome."

The parade, in the shadow of the world-renowned Cyclone roller-coaster, is held each year on the first Saturday after the summer solstice. It was inspired by Mardi Gras festivals that Coney Island hosted in the first half of the twentieth century.

"It's an art parade for wacky New York artists," Zigun said.

'Survivor' Brkich gives bikinis to museum

BEAVER, Pa. (AP)—The fire-fighting display at local museum is creating a lot of heat, thanks to a bikini donation by Survivor winner Amber Brkich. Brkich, who

got \$1 million and a fiancée while winning "Survivor All-Stars," was arguably the biggest draw for the 200 people who turned out for an exhibit Saturday celebrating firefighters in her western Pennsylvania hometown.

The Beaver Area Historical Museum exhibit is anchored by a hand-operated pumper

from 1836. But Brkich has her own exhibit from her time on "Survivor Australian Outback" and "Survivor All-Stars." Items on display include the bikinis she wore, a boomerang from an immunity challenge, a leather canteen and a blindfold.

Brkich and officials with the Beaver Area Historical Museum did their best to find a link between the 25-year-old reality-show contestant and the 170-year history of firefighting in the area.



Brkich



AGELESS MADONNA

Madonna performs during the 2004 Re-invention World Tour in Worcester, Mass., Sunday, June 27, 2004.

Shannon Essenpreis wins Jr. Miss crown

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—Texan Shannon Essenpreis was crowned America's Junior Miss after belting out a Broadway showtune and soaring through interviews with her "bubbly" personality.

Though Essenpreis was crowned Saturday night, television viewers won't see it until July as producers switch to a "reality TV" format. PAX Network camera crews followed the 50 contestants for two weeks leading up to Saturday's contest.

Essenpreis was among five finalists who were given on-the-spot questions tailored to their individual interests. She was asked how she would use the enthusiasm she's displayed as her school's mascot into her planned career as a broadcast journalist.

"I was so nervous," she said after the show. "And the question was so long that by the end of it, I wasn't sure what they were asking me."

Pastimes

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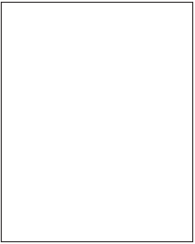
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"I was so nervous," she said after the show. "And the question was so long that by the end of it, I wasn't sure what they were asking me."

Her answer? She'll report on the positive aspects of life while maintaining her personal optimism.

After the contest, Heisman Trophy winner and Junior Miss judge Herschel Walker said he was particularly impressed with Essenpreis' charm and "bubbly" character in her interview last week. Essenpreis won a \$50,000 scholarship.

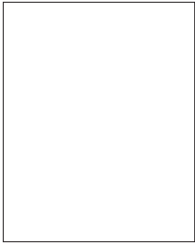


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SAIPAN TRIBUNE